



City of Brockton

BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Basan Nembirkow ♦ Superintendent of Schools

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September 17, 2008

To: The Federal Communications Commission

From: Brockton Public Schools
Brockton, Massachusetts

Re: CC Docket No. 02-06

The Brockton Public Schools hereby lends its strong support to the proposed addition of “telephone broadcast messaging” to the list of services eligible for support under the schools and libraries (“E-rate”) program.

Strong communication between schools and parents can help bolster the academic success of students, and we in the Brockton Public Schools work diligently to build strong relationships with parents for the benefit of their children. Brockton is an urban school district with 15,500 students, and telephone broadcast messaging helps us to reach our students’ homes quickly and efficiently.

For example, telephone broadcast messaging is typically used as a means of contacting parents regarding absent or truant students, thereby facilitating increased classroom attendance. Telephone broadcast messaging can also be used to notify and inform parents of testing schedules, parent/teacher conferences, and to otherwise increase participation by parents in their children’s education.

A further and significant benefit of telephone broadcast messaging is that it can provide an important emergency response resource in the event of weather-related events, health or other civil emergencies, or other incidents that require schools to lock down or transfer students to safe locations.

In enacting the E-rate program in 1996, Congress recognized that many schools and libraries have limited resources that constrain their access to emerging technologies that can enhance and support their educational mission. Telephone broadcast messaging, which allows schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with students and parents, is a prime example of such an emerging technology and should be included within the E-rate program’s list of eligible services.

Sincerely,
Basan Nembirkow
Superintendent of Schools
Brockton (MA) Public Schools

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